



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Utah State Office
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<http://www.blm.gov>



Dear Reader:

Enclosed for your review and comment is the Draft Resource Management Plan (DRMP) and Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Vernal Field Office. This document was prepared by the BLM in concert with seven cooperating agencies, as well as from public comments received during the scoping phase of this planning effort.

The planning area includes the public land and federal mineral ownership managed by the Vernal Field Office in all of Daggett, Duchesne, and Uintah Counties, Utah and a portion of Grand County, Utah. The overall intent of this RMP is to develop a comprehensive management strategy that will guide the management of public lands administered by the Vernal Field Office into the future. This RMP combines two older land-use plans (Diamond Mountain and Book Cliffs RMPs) into a single, unified Vernal Field Office RMP. A myriad of additional information on this land-use plan, as well as BLM planning in general, is available on or through the project web site at: www.vernalrmp.com.

BLM is interested in seeking your comments on the adequacy and accuracy of all four proposed alternatives and the analysis of their respective management decisions. The Proposed RMP/Final EIS, which is the next phase of the planning process, could select various aspects of each of the alternatives as the management strategy that best meets the needs of the many resources and values being planned for in this area. Your comments will help formulate the Proposed RMP/Final EIS.

Public meetings to provide an overview of the document, respond to questions, and take public comments in breakout sessions will be held at:

Vernal	February 8	6:00 - 8:00 p.m.	Vernal City Offices 447 East Main Vernal, Utah 84078
Duchesne	February 9	6:00 - 8:00 p.m.	Duchesne County Admin Building 734 North Center Street Duchesne, Utah 84021
Manila	February 10	6:00 - 8:00 p.m.	Daggett County Courthouse 95 North 100 West Manila, Utah 84046
Grand Junction	February 22	6:00 - 8:00 p.m.	Grand Vista Hotel 2790 Cross Roads Boulevard Grand Junction, CO 81506-8711
Salt Lake City	February 24	6:00 - 8:00 p.m.	Salt Lake City Public Library 210 East 400 South Salt Lake City, Utah 84111

Your review of this information and comments on the content of this document are critical to the success of this planning effort. A Reader's Guide that will help you navigate through the chapters of this document is located directly after the Abstract. Your comments are most useful if they focus on specific management actions being considered and the adequacy and accuracy of analysis. Responses to the substantive comments will be published as part of the Proposed RMP/Final EIS, which is expected to be completed in the fall of 2005, and a Final RMP/Record of Decision shortly thereafter.

Comments on the Draft RMP/EIS will be accepted until April 14, 2005. Written comments should be sent to: **Vernal Field Office RMP Comments, Attention: Planning Coordinator, Bureau of Land Management, Vernal Field Office, 170 South 500 East, Vernal, Utah 84078.** Comments may also be made electronically at: www.vernalrmp.com. Comments, including names and addresses of respondents, will be available for public review at the BLM Vernal Field Office, 170 South, 500 East, Vernal, Utah 84078, at the location listed above during normal business hours (8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., except weekends and holidays). All submissions from organizations or businesses will be made available for public inspection in their entirety. Individuals may request confidentiality with respect to their name, address, and phone number. If you wish to have your name or street address withheld from public review, or from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, the first line of the comment should start with the words "CONFIDENTIALITY REQUESTED" in uppercase letters in order for BLM to comply with your request. Such requests will be honored to the extent allowed by law. Comment contents will not be kept confidential.

BLM would like to thank our cooperating agency partners that have worked so hard to help us complete this document. They have provided support and expertise to facilitate focusing the issues and developing alternatives to help resolve the many compelling resource concerns that face the Vernal Field Office. We would like to particularly recognize the State of Utah and its agencies; Dagget, Uintah, and Duchesne Counties; the Ute Tribe and Bureau of Indian Affairs; and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as cooperating agencies on this DRMP/DEIS. Their experience and dedication has made this a better process and BLM looks forward to continuing to work with them to complete this planning effort. We also extend thanks to those individuals and organizations that have provided extensive information and many excellent ideas that have been considered during this process.

Sincerely,

Sally Wisely
State Director